



## **Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission January 2012**

### **Overview**

Section 22a-6v of the General Statutes of Connecticut requires the Commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding and to the State Bond Commission each month. The report provides information on the acquisition of land or interests in land by the state, a municipality, water company or nonprofit organization using funds authorized for the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program established under Sections 7-131d and the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program established under Sections 23-73 to 23-79 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

### **Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program**

The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program provides grants to municipalities and private nonprofit land conservation organizations for the acquisition of open space land and to water companies to acquire land to be classified as Class I or Class II watershed land. The State of Connecticut receives a conservation and public access easement on property acquired to ensure that the property will be protected and available to residents of Connecticut as open space in perpetuity. The following grants were closed in January 2012. Additional information on this project follows.

<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Town of Berlin	Girl Scout Property	43.36
The Nature Conservancy, Inc.	Salem Valley Corp. Agricultural Easement	163.29

### **Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program**

The Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program is the State of Connecticut's primary program for the acquisition of lands for the beneficial use and enjoyment of the public as additions to the State's system of parks, forests, wildlife, fisheries and natural resource management areas. The program acquires land that represents the ecological diversity of Connecticut, including natural features such as rivers, mountainous areas, coastal systems and their natural areas, in order to ensure the conservation of such land for recreational, scientific, educational, cultural and aesthetic purposes. There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in January 2012.

**Town of Berlin – Girl Scout Property  
Fee Acquisition**



This site, historically used by the CT Girl Scouts as a day camp, expands upon the Town’s holdings in the Hatchery Brook Conservation Area, adjacent to three previously acquired OSWA properties (Sierra Ranch, Scheer & Bradley properties). It is mostly forested with an unnamed brook and a small pond, improved with an access driveway and interior unpaved roadways leading to unsided shelters and outhouses. It will be used for hiking, cross country skiing, birding, fishing and other outdoor, other passive recreation activities and it will expand upon the Metacomet Loop Trail, being developed by the Town of Berlin.

**The Nature Conservancy, Inc. - Salem Valley Corporation Agricultural Land, Salem  
Easement Acquisition**

The 552 acre Salem Valley Corporation property is mostly forested (370 forested acres acquired previously) with over two miles of perennial Eightmile River streams and over half a mile of the main stem of the Eightmile River (East Branch). It is adjacent to protected property on nearly all sides. This acquisition protects 50 acres of Prime and 53 acres of Important Farmland Soils on the Mitchell and Marvel Farms. A public access hiking trail, over one mile in length, will be established on the property connecting Walden Preserve (to the Northeast) with Burnham Brook Preserve (to the Southwest) and to a diverse 10+ mile long corridor of critical habitat and wildlife, originating at the CT River.





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**February 2012**

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<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Wyndham Land Trust, Inc.	Robbins Property, 5 Mile River, Thompson	126.41
Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc.	Talcott Property, Sterling Hill Road, Lyme	40.42

**Wyndham Land Trust, Inc.**  
**Robbins Property, Five Mile River, Thompson**  
**Fee Acquisition**



This property, bisected by the Five Mile River, contains a variety of habitats including open grassland, scrub-shrub, upland forest, riparian forest and wetlands. It protects the Five Mile River watershed as well as a diverse wildlife corridor of large mammalian species, migratory birds and waterfowl and provides recreation opportunities such as fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing and wildlife observation.

**Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc.**  
**Talcott Property, Sterling Hill Road, Lyme**  
**Fee Acquisition**



This property consists of dramatic stone ledges, flowing streams, well preserved stone walls and seasonal views of the rural surroundings. It is almost completely surrounded by protected land and will allow additional passive recreation and access to existing Land Trust and Nehantic State Forest trails. The wetlands and streams on this property are part of the Falls Brook Watershed which feeds into the nationally recognized Wild & Scenic Eightmile River at Hamberg Cove.



## Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Match Share	Fee Acreage	Easement Restrictions or R.O.W.	State Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
Sottile	Simsbury	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv.	50%	56.97	--	\$225,000.00	Addition to Simsbury WMA

### Sottile Property, Simsbury Fee Purchase

The Sottile property consists of 56.97 acres of land located at the end of Eno Place, Simsbury. The property was acquired utilizing funds made available through a Pittman-Robertson Grant administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Acquisition of this parcel provides ecological values by adding nearly 2,000' of frontage along the Farmington River, protecting three ponds, and providing early successional habitat as part of the land is currently farmed with corn crops. The property also provides floodplain protection and water based recreational activities including fishing and hunting.





Connecticut Department of

**ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

## **Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission**

**March 2012**

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### **Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program**

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## **Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission**

**April 2012**

### **Overview**

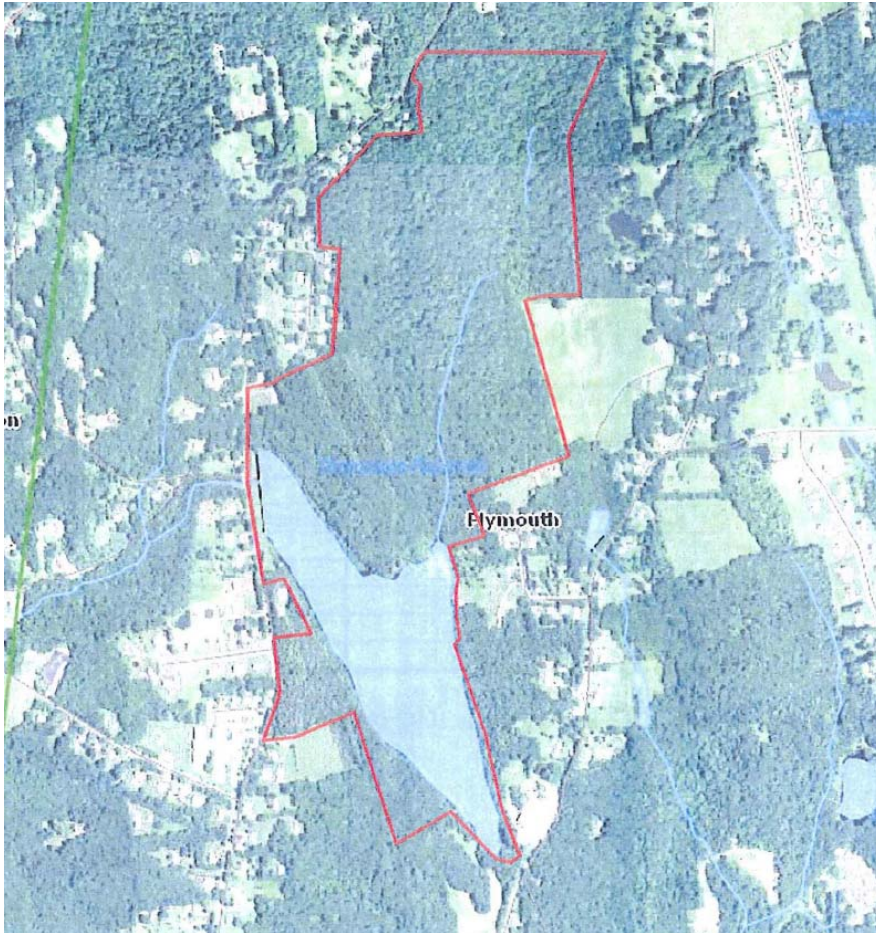
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<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Town of Plymouth	Plymouth Reservoir, Plymouth	178.28
Goshen Land Trust	Anstett Farm (Easement), Goshen	76.13
Northern CT Land Trust, Inc.	Stevenson Property, Somers	30.31

**Town of Plymouth  
Plymouth Reservoir, Plymouth  
Fee Acquisition**



This CT Water Company sale to the Town contains 66 acres of wetlands (37 acres of which is the reservoir), an earthen dam, a spillway, a mix of watercourses, wooded wetlands and forestland dominated by mixed hardwoods and conifers. The opportunity exists for passive recreational activities such as hiking, boating, swimming, wildlife viewing and cross country skiing. This reservoir empties into the Naugatuck River within a mile of the property. This acquisition protects a large, high-quality water resource in the Naugatuck River Watershed.

**Goshen Land Trust  
Anstett Farm, Goshen  
Easement Acquisition**



This Conservation Easement protects property in the upper Naugatuck River Watershed and complements the Class II Watershed land held by the Torrington Water Company to the north and south. 42+/- acres are forested and bisected by Nickel Mine Creek (Class AA). The property contains 37% agricultural soils (prime/state).



**Northern Connecticut Land Trust, Inc.**  
**Stevenson Property, Somers**  
**Fee Acquisition**



This mostly wooded property lies southerly of YWCA's Camp Aya-Po and Lake Hurd. From the easterly frontage, a cart path winds down a steep ravine, through which Gillette Brook flows. An abandoned trail runs N/S along the westerly frontage, which connects to the Shenipsit/Blue Blazed Trail. The Land Trust seeks to re-open this (formerly abandoned) section of the trail which ascends Bald Mountain and follows the ridge to the Pinnacle & Shenipsit State Forest. Only one (other) privately owned parcel separates this from more than 224 acres of open space and the Shenipsit State Forest. This acquisition enables oversight of Gillette Brook (with native brook trout) and fishing opportunities for the general public, protecting a wildlife corridor and greenway to other towns in which the Shenipsit Trail is located.

**Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program**

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There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in April 2012.

## **Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission**

**May 2012**

### **Overview**

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There were no open space and watershed acquisition grants closed in May 2012.

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Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Match Share	Fee Acreage	Easement Restrictions or R.O.W.	State Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
Werner Estate	Canton	N/A		1.74	--	Donation	Addition to Massacoe SF

### Werner Estate Property, Town of Canton Donation

The Werner property consists of 1.74 acres of land improved with an older, cape style house located at 66 Bahre Corner Road, Canton. The property was generously donated by the Estate of Maurice Werner. The property is surrounded by over 100 acres of land that was donated to the State by the Werner family in the early 1960's. This donation helps expand the section of the Massacoe State Forest that is often referred to as 'Werner Woods'.

## **Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission**

**June 2012**

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<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Town of Woodbury	Minortown Road, Woodbury	21.48



**Town of Woodbury**  
**Minortown Road, Woodbury**  
**Fee Acquisition**



With 2,500+/- feet of frontage on the Nonnewaug River, this acquisition preserves water quality and provides hiking, fishing and wildlife habitat observation opportunities for the public, Nonnewaug High School and Ellis Clark Regional Agriscience Center. The parcel contains prime farmland soils and the Town will regulate the farming activities.

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## **Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission**

**July 2012**

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